

Application No. 10/720,810
Supplemental Response to Office Action of November 28, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fire alarm system, comprising:
a controller;
at least one hazard detector that detects any one of fire, heat, and smoke, and that communicates with the controller via a network;
at least one notification appliance in communication with the controller via the network; and
a warning receiver, separate and distinct from any hazard detector, the warning receiver receiving a warning alert message from a source external to the fire alarm system, the warning receiver providing at least a part of the received warning alert message to the controller, the controller, in response to the warning alert message, causing at least one notification appliance to notify based at least in part on the received warning alert message,
the notification appliance providing notification in response to detection of a change in alert status of the warning alert message.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 1, the external source being a government agency.
4. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 3, the government agency being the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
5. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 4, the warning receiver being a NOAA weather radio receiver.
6. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 4, the warning receiver comprising an interface to a NOAA weather radio receiver.

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7. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 1, the warning receiver comprising a radio receiver equipped to receive the warning alert.
8. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 1, the warning receiver comprising an interface to a radio receiver equipped to receive the warning alert.
9. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 8, the interface comprising at least one relay contact.
10. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 8, the interface comprising a serial interface.
11. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 1, the warning receiver receiving warning alerts via at least one of: Internet, telephone, and cellular phone.
12. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 1, the fire alarm notification appliance providing notification of the received warning alert message by transmitting a voice message.
13. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 1, the fire alarm notification appliance providing notification of the received warning alert message by transmitting a predefined audio pattern.
14. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 1, the fire alarm notification appliance providing notification of the received warning alert message by transmitting a predefined flash pattern.
15. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 1, the notification appliance providing different notifications for different warning alert messages.
16. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 1, further comprising:
a delay module which provides a delay before transmission of the notification warning.
17. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 1, further comprising:

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a verification module which allows confirmation of the validity of the warning alert message before transmission of the notification.

18. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 1, further comprising:
a battery backup system.
19. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 1, further comprising:
a visual annunciator comprising plural visual indicators used to indicate a current alert level.
20. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 19, the visual indicators being light emitting diodes.
21. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 19, the visual indicators being color-coded.
22. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 19, the visual annunciator being incorporated into a fire alarm control panel.
23. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 19, the visual annunciator being a stand-alone device in communication with the warning receiver.
24. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 19, the visual annunciator being incorporated into the fire alarm notification appliance.
25. (Currently Amended) A method, in a fire alarm system, for providing warnings, the method comprising:
receiving a warning alert from an external source;
communicating the warning alert to a central controller for the fire alarm system, the central controller also communicating with detectors and notification appliances via a network;
in direct response to the communicating of the warning alert to the central controller, determining whether there is a change in at least a part of the warning alert and
communicating from the central controller for the fire alarm system to at least one of the fire

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alarm notification appliance to issue an alert based at least in part on the received warning alert;
and

providing, at the at least one fire alarm notification appliance, notification of the
alert.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
providing, from the fire alarm notification appliance, notification in response to
detection of a change in alert status of the warning alert.
27. (Original) The method of claim 25, the external source being a government
agency.
28. (Original) The method of claim 27, the government agency being the U.S.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
29. (Original) The method of claim 28, the warning alert being detected by a NOAA
weather radio receiver interfaced with the fire alarm system.
30. (Original) The method of claim 28, the warning alert being detected by a NOAA
weather radio receiver integrated into the fire alarm system.
31. (Original) The method of claim 25, the warning alert being detected by a radio
receiver equipped to receive the warning alert, the radio receiver being integrated into the fire
alarm system.
32. (Original) The method of claim 25, the warning alert being detected by a radio
receiver equipped to receive the warning alert, the radio receiver interfaced with the fire alarm
system.
33. (Original) The method of claim 32, the method further comprising:
signaling detection of the warning alert by actuating at least one relay contact.
34. (Original) The method of claim 32, the method further comprising:
signaling detection of the warning alert via a serial interface.

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35. (Original) The method of claim 25, warning alerts being received via at least one of:

Internet, telephone, and cellular phone.

36. (Original) The method of claim 25, the step of providing notification of the detected warning alert comprising:

transmitting a voice message.

37. (Original) The method of claim 25, the step of providing notification of the detected warning alert comprising:

transmitting a predefined audio pattern.

38. (Original) The method of claim 25, the step of providing notification of the detected warning alert comprising:

transmitting a predefined flash pattern.

39. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

providing different notifications for different warning alerts.

40. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

delaying transmission of the notification warning.

41. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

providing means for confirmation of the validity of the warning alert before transmission of the notification.

42. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

indicating, in a visual annunciator with plural visual indicators, a current alert level.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, the visual indicators being light emitting diodes.

44. (Original) The method of claim 42, the visual indicators being color-coded.

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45. (Original) The method of claim 42, the visual annunciator being incorporated into a fire alarm control panel.

46. (Original) The method of claim 42, the visual annunciator being a stand-alone device in communication with the warning detector.

47. (Original) The method of claim 42, the visual annunciator being incorporated into the fire alarm notification appliance.

48. (Currently Amended) A fire alarm system comprising:
warning detection means for detecting a warning alert from an external source;
notification means for providing notification of the warning alert in response to detection of the warning alert; and
controller means for the fire alarm system receiving the warning alert from the warning detection means and in direct response to receiving the warning alert from the warning detection means, determining whether there is a change in at least a part of the warning alert and
further communicating the warning alert to the notification means via a network.

49. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 48, further comprising:
means for providing, from the fire alarm notification appliance, notification in response to detection of a change in alert status of the warning alert.

50. (Previously presented) The fire alarm system, comprising:
a system controller;
a plurality of fire alarm notification appliances in communication with the system controller;
a warning receiver in communication with the system controller, the warning receiver detecting a warning alert from an external source; and
a visual annunciator comprising plural color-coded indicators, the visual annunciator being in communication with the warning receiver via the system controller, the system controller receiving the warning alert from the warning receiver and, in response, sending a command to the visual annunciator to indicate a current alert level in the received warning alert.

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51. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 50, the color-coded indicators being light emitting diodes.
52. (Original) The fire alarm system of claim 50, the visual annunciator being incorporated into any of: the system controller; and at least one of the fire alarm notification appliances.
53. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 50, the visual annunciator being a stand-alone device in communication with the warning receiver.
54. (Currently Amended) A fire alarm system comprising:
a fire alarm system controller;
a fire alarm notification appliance in communication with the system controller;
a warning detector which detects a security/terrorist warning alert from a source external to the fire system, the fire alarm notification appliance communicating with the system controller,
wherein the system controller detects a change in at least a part of the warning alert and the system controller providing provides notification of the warning alert in direct response to detection of the detected change in at least a part of the warning alert.
55. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 1, wherein the warning detector detects security/terrorist warning alerts from the external source.
56. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 1, where the visual annunciator indicates a current threat level for Homeland Security.
57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
determining at least one recommendation based on the warning alert; and
issuing the alert based at least in part on the recommendation.
58. (Previously Presented) The fire alarm system of claim 50, where the visual annunciator indicates a current alert level after a detected change in alert status.